

eastern frontier of Transylvania. Field Marshal von Hindenburg captured the whole of western Wallachia and the hostile capital of Bucharest, leading with unparalleled speed and troops in competition with all the (Teutonic) allies made possible what hitherto was considered impossible.

"And Hindenburg does not rest. Military operations progress. By stroke of the sword at the same time firm foundations for our economic needs have been laid. Great stocks of grain, victuals, oil and other goods have been put into our hands in Rumania. Their transport has begun. In spite of scarcity we now have lived on our own supplies, but now our safety is beyond question.

"To these great events on land, the Chancellor continues, 'heroic deeds of equal importance are added by our submarines. The spectre of famine, which our enemies intended to appear before us, now pursues them without mercy. When after the termination of the first year of the war the Emperor addressed the nation in a public appeal he said: 'Having witnessed such great events, my heart was filled with awe and determination.'

"Neither our Emperor nor our nation ever changed their minds in this respect. Neither have they now. The genuine and heroic acts of our leaders have fashioned these facts as firm as iron. If the enemy counted upon the weariness of his enemy then he was deceived.

"The Reichstag, by means of the national auxiliary war service law, helped to build a new offensive and defensive bulwark in the midst of the great struggle." The Chancellor continues, "the fighting army stands the nation at work—the gigantic force of the nation working for the common aim.

"The empire is not a besieged fortress, as our adversaries imagined, but one gigantic and firmly disciplined country with inexhaustible resources. That is the German Empire, which is firmly and faithfully united with its brothers in arms, who have been tested in battle under the Austro-Hungarian, Turkish and Bulgarian flags. Our enemies now ascribed to us a plan to conquer the whole world, and then desperate cries of anguish for peace.

"But not confused by these asseverations, we progressed, with firm decision, and we thus continue our progress, always ready to defend ourselves and fight for our nation's existence, for its future, and always ready for this price to stretch out our hand for peace.

"Our strength has not made our ears deaf to our responsibility before God, before our own nation and before humanity. The declarations formerly made by us concerning our readiness for peace were evaded by our adversaries. Now we have advanced one step further in this direction.

"On August 1, 1916, the Emperor had personally to take the gravest decision which ever came to him as a German—the order for mobilization, which he was compelled to give as a result of the Russian mobilization. During that year the Emperor has been moved by a single thought—how peace could be restored to safeguard Germany after the struggle in which she has fought victoriously.

"No body can testify better to this than I, who bear the responsibility for all actions of the Government. In a deep moral and religious sense of duty toward his nation and, beyond it, toward humanity, the Emperor now considers that the moment has come for official action toward peace.

"His Majesty therefore, in complete harmony and in common with our allies, decided to propose to the hostile Powers to enter into peace negotiations. This morning I transmitted a note to this effect to all the hostile Powers, through representatives of the Powers which are watching over the rights and rights in the hostile States. I asked the representatives of Spain, the United States and Switzerland to forward that note.

"The same procedure has been adopted to-day in Vienna, Constantinople and Sofia. Other neutral States and His Holiness the Pope have been similarly informed.

"Representatives of the foreign Governments listened to the Chancellor from the diplomatic point of view. Mr. Charles D'Alema, Joseph C. Grew, and Mrs. Grew were among those present, as were the Ministers of Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the other states of Central and South America.

"The Reichstag Building was surrounded by a great crowd, and the adjoining streets were thronged. The people were intensely interested, and the Imperial Chancellor, on his arrival, was cordially greeted in the usual fashion. The Chancellor began his speech in clear, loud, ringing voice. His first utterances were greeted with applause on all sides, and at frequent points in his speech the assembly assented in demonstrative fashion.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY READY TO FIGHT ON

Declares Allies Can Never Conquer by Blockade or Starvation Methods.

FOES CAN'T ALTER 'FATE' AIM NOT AT CONQUEST

Further Warfare Would Be Aimless Destruction of Life and Property.

LONDON, Dec. 12.—An official Austrian statement, referring to the peace offer, says:

"When in the summer of 1914 the pact of Austria-Hungary was exhausted by a series of systematically continued and ever increasing provocations and massacres, and the monarchy after almost fifty years of unbroken peace, found itself compelled to draw the sword, this weighty decision was animated neither by aggressive purposes nor by designs of conquest, but solely by the bitter necessity of self-defense to defend its existence and safeguard itself for the future against similar treacherous plots of hostile neighbors.

"That was the task and aim of the monarchy in the present war. In combination with its allies, well tried in loyal comradeship in arms, the Austro-Hungarian army and fleet, fighting, bleeding, but also assailing and conquering, gained such success that they frustrated the intentions of the enemy. The quadruple alliance not only has won an immense series of victories, but also holds in its power extensive hostile territories. Unbroken in its strength, as our latest treacherous enemy has just experienced.

"Further bloodshed is useless. 'Can our enemies hope to conquer or shatter this alliance of Powers? They will never succeed in breaking it by blockade and starvation measures. Their war aims, to the attainment of which they have come no nearer in the third year of the war, will in the future be proved to have been completely unattainable. Useless and unavailing, therefore, is the prosecution of the fighting on the part of the enemy.

"The Powers of the Quadruple Alliance, on the other hand, have effectively put their enemies in a position of defense against attacks on their existence and integrity, which were planned in concert long since, and the achievement of their aims, namely, to allow themselves to be deprived of the basis of their existence, which they have secured by advantages won.

"The continuation of the murderous war, in which the enemy can destroy much, but cannot—as the Quadruple Alliance is firmly confident—alter fate, is even more to be deplored, as it entails destruction of human lives and property, an act of inhumanity justified by no necessity and a crime against civilization.

"The governments of Austria-Hungary, Germany, Turkey and Bulgaria have addressed to-day identical notes to the diplomatic representatives of the remaining neutral States in the four capitals concerned who are entrusted with the protection of enemy nationals expressing an inclination to enter into peace negotiations and requesting them to transmit this overture to enemy States.

"This step was simultaneously brought to the knowledge of the representatives of the Holy See in a special note, and the active interest of the Pope for this offer of peace was solicited. Likewise the accredited representatives of the remaining neutral States in the four capitals were acquainted with this proceeding for the purpose of informing their Governments.

"Austria and her allies by this step have given new and decisive proof of their love of peace. It is now for their enemies to make known their views before the world. Whatever the result of its proposal may be, no responsibility can fall on the Quadruple Alliance, even before the judgment seat of its own peoples, if it is eventually obliged to continue the war.

AMERICAN LEGION SAILS. Canadian Regiment Is in Command of Former New York Man.

CHICAGO, Dec. 12.—The American Legion of the Dominion of Canada, under command of Lieut.-Col. W. H. Sage, has departed for Europe, according to a statement made here today by an official of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Lieut.-Col. Sage was born in New York city thirty-two years ago.

Other members of the Legion, formerly auditor with a New York bank, Capt. D. Trainer, Pennsylvania, a former Rough Rider in Cuba; W. K. Turner, Ontario; Kentucky; Capt. E. R. Edson, Seattle, Wash.; Capt. H. R. Sanborn, California and Washington; Lieut. V. Yale Smith, Massachusetts; Lieut. Floyd K. Beach, Michigan; Lieut. V. Heydenbach, Providence, R. I.; and Lieut. H. H. Jones, Buffalo, N. Y.

The Danish freight steamer Olaf Maersk, which arrived yesterday from Rotterdam, was held up on the night of November 16, when she was less than one day out in the North Sea, by a German submarine, which fired two shots across her bows.

A boat was sent to the submarine with the ship's papers and she was allowed to proceed.

GERMAN EDITORIALS SHOW PEACE DESIRE

Careful Press Campaign Paves Way for Von Bethmann-Hollweg Proposal.

AIM NOT AT CONQUEST

Teuton Papers Reveal End of War Is Actually and Sincerely Wished.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. LONDON, Dec. 12.—Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg's peace proposal came as a staggering surprise to London. The British capital, as well as Berlin, had expected a statement of existing conditions, with a consideration of their possible ultimate effect on peace arrangements, but London was unprepared for the direct detailed announcement which was made.

Indeed, the careful publicity which had been given the announcement that a speech of historic importance was forthcoming in the Reichstag justified the expectation that such references to peace as the Chancellor might make would be couched only in vague terms. Only those who had been following closely the campaign which the Berlin government had been carefully conducting in the German press realized that anything like a definite proposal might be offered.

Extracts from leading German newspapers leave no room for doubt that the address was carefully considered and that peace is actually and sincerely desired. Otherwise the publication of such editorial articles as are here reproduced would never have been permitted.

In the midst of Englishmen's significance attaches to the statement of the Reichstag of Berlin that 'Our enemies must not be led to believe that Germany desires peace because they fear defeat, or that they desire war in order to press the flat of the conqueror in the backs of foreign peoples.'

For Mutual Equality. The Vorwaerts' editorial follows: 'Will the German people permit the infliction of their enemies of a defeat so crushing that she can dictate her own peace terms? This is a plain question which demands a plain answer. This answer is in accordance with all human calculations—no conduct of the war must, in accordance with its own inherent laws, aspire to victory by destruction.

"Let us hasten to make peace with possibilities. These possibilities exclude the idea of a crushing defeat by Germany. We want peace, but peace can come only when it has been won about by the conviction on the part of our enemies that, though they may not obtain that peace at which they have aimed, they will not be humiliated, that the peace which the German people want. This must be a peace that can be concluded on a basis of mutual equality, a peace that takes nothing from the victor without giving him something equal in value in return.

"Our enemies must not be led to believe that the Germans desire peace because they are crushed, or that they desire war in order to press the flat of the conqueror in the backs of foreign peoples. Let us tell our opponents openly and frankly that we desire peace with a plan; that the minority that did place this plan on its programme no longer believes in its feasibility.

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ENTERING WEDGE, IS WASHINGTON VIEW

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LONDON SEES NO CHANCE FOR PEACE

Continued from First Page.

not been completely and decisively beaten no peace with her can be more than a truce which she would violate the first moment it served her purpose.

The Daily News says: 'The move may be supposed to have three main objects in view. The first is to compel the Allies to face a problem which must be faced eventually, a problem, that is, of the terms on which they are prepared to make peace. He expects the absence of a common policy will bring them into conflict and he stands to profit by the issues.

"In the second place, his aim is to put us wrong with the neutral world. Especially his eye is on the United States, where several significant incidents have happened of late which are disquieting to the Allies.

"In the third place, his aim is obviously to justify his Government in the eyes of his own people. There is a feeling in the United States that the United States is being deceived by the German proposal. The Chancellor's declaration is almost blasphemous, the News continues. After the crushing of the citizens of Rumania and the deportation of French and Belgians the Kaiser and Chancellor place on the Allies the responsibility for continuing the war.

A general pessimism prevails in London. One prominent official expressed himself as being very sceptical that the proposed terms would offer even a basis for peace negotiations. This official said, however, that the note was a dramatic coup, which would create interesting developments in the diplomatic situation and provide the first official peace overture of the war.

Can See No Results. The general impression was that the German offer was not likely to bring immediate results, particularly if, as the Emperor's pronouncement indicated, it was made on the basis that the Central Powers and the Emperor would not submit to any terms which would be a humiliation to them.

The stock market had adjourned and the House of Commons was dispersing when the news became known. It is believed that the German proposal is in a general way with the proposals. The Exchange Telegraph Company says that the speech last night of Arthur Henderson, member of the War Council, was made with full knowledge that such proposals were likely to be brought forward.

INSINCERE, SAYS TIMES. London Newspaper Has No Faith in German Offer. Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN from the London Times.

LONDON, Dec. 13 (Wednesday).—The Times editorial is headed 'A Manifest Sham.' It proceeds: 'Although the German proposals for peace are not indicated even in outline in the notes that country has addressed to the Allies and the Pope, in the Chancellor's speech in the Reichstag the whole tone and the terms both point as plainly as do the time and circumstances of their delivery to the conclusion that the so-called peace offer is insincere. The German proposal is a sham, and the terms both point as plainly as do the time and circumstances of their delivery to the conclusion that the so-called peace offer is insincere.

Shows No Anxiety. After repeating some of the Chancellor's sounding phrases the editorial proceeds: 'That is not the language of a believer who is genuinely anxious to come to terms with his adversaries.

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ENTERING WEDGE, IS WASHINGTON VIEW

Continued from First Page.

their position to be made clear by Mr. Lloyd George, the new British Premier, in a speech before Parliament on Thursday. The German proposal will be dealt with by Mr. Lloyd George. It is explained in Entente circles, and upon his statement will depend whether the Kaiser's proposal is to be considered at all or whether the offer is to be ignored or flatly rejected.

So much will depend upon this that President Wilson may wait until after Thursday before deciding upon what course he will follow. The President's endorsement of the central idea contained in the German proposal—the desire for peace—is unquestioned. But the question in the President's mind is just what procedure the United States Government ought to follow at this critical stage with a view to reinforcing the proposal for peace without going counter to the temper of the Entente or appearing to endorse the particular terms of peace which Germany is willing to offer. The slightest misstep on the President's part might easily do harm, it is explained.

There is, however, one important point which might prompt President